

REMARKS

Applicant thanks Examiner Duverne for the analysis set forth in the Office Action dated April 20, 2005. Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the application and allowance of the claims in view of the above amendments and the remarks provided below.

Claim Rejections under 35 U.S.C. 102(b)

Claims 1-4 presently stand rejected as being anticipated by the Medendorp reference.

The present electric power bar combines electric power surge protection with a communications module 28 that has a built-in modem 58. This type of electric power bar has been particularly well received by hotels, although it has found other markets, such as hospitals, condominiums, apartments, and other complexes comprised of multiple dwelling units. Travellers staying at hotels are increasingly demanding internet access. Older hotels (and older hospitals, condominiums, apartments, etc) were not wired to provide separate data lines. The provision of this configuration of electric power bar enables existing telephone lines to be used. The alternative to the present invention would require 1) a power bar (preferably with power surge protection) into which the traveller can plug in his computer and any peripheral devices (printers, etc); 2) a separate modem; 3) a data line to connect the modem to the telephone jack; and 4) a splitter to enable both the data line and the telephone to plug into the same telephone jack, so that telephone service is not lost during computer usage, and 5) communication software. (See page 4, lines 7-13 of the present application.)

The Examiner has noted that the Medendorp reference discloses an electric power bar with a number of similar receptacles. It is respectfully submitted that the Medendorp reference is primarily focused upon what Medendorp describes as "power distribution" and "low voltage command signals". While Medendorp contemplated connection to a wide variety of devices, including

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modems and computers, as part of his device's "power distribution" function, this is not applicable to the present invention as claimed.

The Examiner has referred applicant to Fig. 9 of Medendorp. It is respectfully submitted that Medendorp illustrated and described in his other Figures a low voltage command signal coming from a touch control module 34. The reference to the Local Area Network (LAN) in Fig. 9 was merely for the purpose of demonstrating that his low voltage command signal input 22 was compatible with TTL logic, enabling activation from any one of computers 132 on the LAN network 130. (See Medendorp, page 7, lines 1-13). While this may be a desirable feature, it is respectfully submitted that this is not equivalent to the present invention and does not either anticipate nor render obvious the present invention.

Applicant has amended Claim 1 to more clearly state that communications module 28 has a built-in modem. This is shown in Fig. 4 and described on page 3, lines 10-18.

In view of the foregoing amendments and arguments, it is respectfully submitted that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Applicant, therefore, requests reconsideration and the issue of a Notice of Allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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